



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

June 18, 2019

Board of Education
Benton Harbor Area Schools
1995 Union Avenue
P.O. Box 1107
Benton Harbor, MI 49023

Dear School Board Members,

Thank you for meeting with my team and other state officials this last Wednesday, June 12, 2019. I am in receipt of your letter dated the same day, as well as your correspondence from this past Friday, June 14, 2019 and accompanying documents. Based on this most recent communication, I understand the Board voted not to accept the state's proposal to address the district's financial and academic challenges. I believe the state's proposal has merit, and if implemented in partnership with the Board, would ultimately improve educational outcomes for students and benefit the whole community.

That said, I think we all know that doing nothing is not an option for the children of Benton Harbor. As we move forward, we must focus our efforts on finding a solution that is attainable and puts students and families first. Given substantial efforts by the Board to begin crafting a plan, I look forward to working in partnership toward a solution that includes clear benchmarks, accountability, and more serious measures if these benchmarks are not satisfied.

Please know that my team and I are carefully reviewing the documents submitted by the district and considering next steps. We will be in touch by the end of this week to schedule our next meeting.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor